# Miscellany.

### A Solder's Letter-No 48.

a very inspiring effect for postical nature, but cold-

packet away out in the [wilderness among the the weather may be understood from the fact that would desagree with me, if I should say, it is time rebels, where we expected every hour to be led several of the canteens that I belied till late in this testions letter was brought to a close, for I against the enemy. We were not led against the evening, were frozen solid in the morning, am beginning to feel almost as dull as what I them while we were there, for reasons known on y and some had burst open and were sponed. The every writer, to the higher authorities, though without doubt next day we had nothing to do but to keep ourit was because we found the enemy much strong- selves warm and speculate on the prospects before er in his position than we expected. Gen. Meade us. We were on a portion of the plank road that did not wish to in ugurate another Lee's Mili's leads from Cuipepper to Fredericksburg, and affair. There was a deep creek between us and could at any time we chose, move down and take the viries of the Shake of Lewis for of the cothe enemy, and the rebels had been busy digging possession of the hights at that place. The enes is entitled to the distinction of being called the rate pits and strengthening their position ever my were only covering Gordonsville. They were greatest in the world. The entire volum of since we came up to them. Both banks were abs south and west of us, and we were the nearest Snake river pours over a sheer precipice one since we came up to them. Both banks were and south and west of us, and we were the nearest hundred and maety eight feet high thorty eight rupt and steep and difficult to get over, while on Fredericksburg. All this looked as if it might feet higher than Niagara. Snake rover is full as the rebel side they had added to these disadvan- he so, but there was an air of mystery and doubt large as the Niagara, and the custade is one soud tages by placing every conceivable obstacle in the way of our advance. Trees were felled, abattis made, breakty orks were thrown up until they made, breakty orks were thrown up until they occupied a position that if we had occupied we so well for us as some pretended to believe. They very. Almost a dozen years age the writer passed should have considered impregnable against all had a strong position and doubtless were so discalong the Snake river road. For two days we

"the men" were in the best of spirits, and eager | could fight us there; in either case they held us fails and rapide, making a descent of seven henfor a dash at the enemy. Now all such state- to a disadvantage. It really looked as if Gen, dree feet in seven miles, and the sound gave culments, though meant, I suppose, to be compil- Meade had failed in some orithant maneuvre by the great plane Smake river flows through a conmentary, need a slight qualification, and admit of which he had intended to bring Lee out on an on, with vertical walls hundreds of feet ht, b. It some exceptions. We are in " the best of spir- open right, and in this failure, imasmuch as we kid is only at long intervals that salient points are its "almost any time when we can get the best of | declined to fight and give the relative their advant. Found by which the river can be reached. The spirits to just into us, and as for heing eager for a lash at the enemy, perhaps it is all true; I can have across the river once more. This was renis a chance to decoud for water. From these speak for but one, but there was certainly a fellow dered certain when night came and we were or- facts very few, it any, of the tens of thousands there about my size that felt no such eagerness at dered to pack up and fall in. After marching of adventurers that have crossed the plants ever devils and see their position and the means they were providing for our reception, with any desire to be ordered over there amongst them. If the order had been given to charge, of course I should have charged with the rest, and if I could hart a rebel so that he would have had to go home and stay with his mother until the war was over, I should have done it; but after all, is tell the plain truth about the matter, and there is no use in lying, in the event of a charge, I know I should have has a strong preference for sunning the other way and placing as much distance as possible between those rebel minnies and my own precious self. Vermonters are the very best fighters in the world, so every body says that knows anything about it; but you never see a Vermonter manifest any eagerness to get into a fight, nor any desire to back out after he does get in.

It was expected by some, that a charge would be ordered that Sunday afternoon when we were there on picket, but it was postponed until morn ing. Early in the morning we were relieved from post, and went back to the reserve. At precisely eight o'clock our artillery opened on the enemy. They commenced with energy, and from two points, pouring in a cross fire and throwing in shot and shell among the rebels with terrible rait. From the picket outposts they could be seen of the road, as thickly as they could possibly get Loan" has dropped as low as 55, and the decline hurrying in all directions, some scattering in confusion, and some being collected together for resistance. There seemed to be an endless number of them. We had stirred up their hive, and found a pretty lively swarm, and as large a one as we need wish to contend with. The cannonading was to continue for an hour, and then, hurran boys for a charge. As we were on picket, we should take the lead, and act as skirrmishers. In about half an hour the firing ceased. Pretty soon the order came to pack up and fall in. We did so, and were ordered about to the right of the line, a mile or so further. All the way we kept back from the edge of the woods far enough to prevent the rebels from discovering our movement. We picked our way through a dense and almost impenetrable thicket of small trees and underbrush. We passed by where a storming party of the 5th corps had piled up their knspsacks and havresacks, and were stripped for the charge. After a while we got into our position where we should remain until further orders. It

was very cold, but no fires were allowed to bet a roof, and they were as comfortably situated as built there. The Johonies were having their ever; but some had completely destroyed their nice comfortable fires, and they appeared to he houses, and material, and consequently if they but a short distance from us. They didn't appear built again, had to commence snew. We were SECOND VERMONT REGIMENT, ( to be at all bashful about showing their position told that we had better not make any extensive Near Brandy Station, Va., Dec. 8, 1863. 5 by building fires or coming out in sight. But we preparations for comfortable quarters, as our regis-Entron Freeman :- Being detailed for fa- must keep back in the woods out of sight and ment intended to move to a more pleasant localitigue, and out a couple of miles from camp, with keep warm the best way we could. By skuffling, ty, which has since been done. Friday night the but little prospect of returning for at least ten knocking off hats, and running around a ring that order came into camp to pack up everything, days from the commencement of the detail, I we made a path for in the woods, we managed to and be ready to move at a moment's notice. The have pulled up my knapsack close to the fire, ful- keep from freezing. We expected to be ordered rebel cavalry had crossed to this side of the Rapily determined to write you another letter by fire- into action every minute. The companies to be dan, and possibly we might be attacked. The light, this evening, unless I am driven from my deployed were selected, but the order to advance officers and men had been given a ration of whis, purpose by the smoke, which persists in drifting and not come. The boys were tired of waiting, key that night and all hands were pretty noisy, directly into my face, let me get on to which side If they had got to charge on the enemy, they though nobody supposed that that had anything of the fire I will. To be bent down over an out- wanted to do it at once, and have it done with, to do with the rebel scare. Matters quieted down door's fire on a cold December night, might have and not stand there and dread it all day in the after a while, and so did the boy s, and not stand there and dread it all day in the

son etimes places my patience in great jeopardy. moved, Soon the order came to "left face place," have been ever since. We are hulding a c relary tunity to do so than now, and to deprive the pub- and as soon as we could collect the material, we say have got to be carried over this road. The his of this important delinquency that I never had a bright, rousing fire to collect around, and railroad only carries forage to Brandy Station. should have the face to ask forgiveness for. to eat supper by. We made our fields around. But it is getting to be well on towards mid-The last time I wrote, I believe we were on this fire and slept till morning. Some idea of night, and my fire is nearly gone out. No one

posed that they could move down and occupy heard the touring of these talls, but learned no more respecting them than if they had been in Army correspondents, I notice, all have it that their old position by Fredericksburg, or they the moon. It was said that there were series of two or three miles, or such a matter, we balted and formed into line. Skirmishers were thrown less height, varying from twenty to fifty in t out, and we were told that we should remain at each ; near by. Some day they will be visited

> ing as rear-guard. We spread down our blan- are as far beyond Ningara as Ningara now excels kets, determined to steal a little sleep if we could. The balance of the world. The next thing we have any recollection of war of being aroused from a good sweet dream, and ordered to form. We as been there three hours instead of two. We were completely chilled through, and it was quite fortunate that we were awakered, when we were, for we were chivering rived as this city and Baltimore, from rebeldom, with the cold, and trembling like a man of nine- is so much greater than usual, that the people ty. We fell into line, and before we had marched are wondering what it all means. Women are far we were warm enough.

> crossed Germania Ford the next morning. We lie which Mr. Keitt and his friends talked so noticed as we passed down to the river some well down to the ground. Most of these women are constructed rifle-pits and breastworks, from interested in real estate lying north of the Powhich the enemy had no doubt intended to dis- tomac, and while they come here to perform the pute our passage across the river, and which we larce of being loyal according to circumstances, were enabled to dodge through the foresight and generalship of Gen. Meade. We marched about South. a mile this side of the river before we belted for breakfast. The 5th curps had preceded us, and their men were lying in the bushes on each side together. After breakfast we marched on a little is now from one to two per cent. per ay. This further, and finally in a woods for all day, and by that of a more general nature respecting the the next night. Thursday in rining we were or- rebel cause. The French country press, in pardered to pack up and fall in, which we did, and ticular, are very decided in their tone of oppomarched towards our old camp. We marched sition. One of the most influential declares up to Stevensburg and crossed the Mountain that France can ever form any alliance with a Creek at that place, some distance above the pack of slave holding conspirators. The country place where we crossed the same stream on our of Latayette must ever remain the faithful friend way down a week before. As we came along by of the country of Washington. the camps of the 5th and 3rd corps we noticed that they were occupying the same houses, and, the same places exactly, that they occupied before on Monday. Two turkeys, four pair of canvaswe moved. At Brandy Station everything was backs, a dozen quail, and two pair of prairie alive with business. One sutlers wagon was ac- hens, were placed in the centre of a hogshead of tually unloading from a platform car, just as we serve them sound. In Caraccas they have no passed by. This was an important event, for turkeys. That bird cannot live in that climate, sutler's goods have heretofore been too scarce to and the Yarkee in Venezuela who wants a turbe obtained even by officers, and those who feel key dinner must import it. that they have a special right to these things. We marched straight back i to our old c mp. a distinguished foreign diplomat, which charac-Those that had not burned up their houses before terized Napoleon as" the man who says nothing they left had only to put their tent overhead for and yet always lies."

disturbed as that night. The next morning we for me at is a most uncomfortable position, and But the sun went down and our line had not were detailed for this "fatigue," and here we But if I wish to narrat, the events of the past It was clear and cold. We got into line after road along by the size of the rail and from Raps few days, I had probably have no better oppor- about our usual delay to marching and halting, palantages Station to camp. Our supplies they

## A Great Waterfall-

the valley of the Snake or Lewis fork of the Coby the tourist and pleasure-seeker, and looked It was a certain thing then that we were ro- to-day, and it will be admitt d that, with the treating, and that a part of our brigade was act- stopendous grandeur of their surroughings, they

> FREADE REMEIS COMING NORTH, The Washingtor correspondent of the New York Journal

" The number of women who have recently arproverbial for their sagacity, under desperate circumstances, and it may be they are getting It was about daylight when we reached and away from beneath those pillars of the Repubthey beest that their husbands or sons are lighting against the old flag in the armies of the

> REBEL CAUSE IN FRANCE. It appears by the last advices from Paris that the " Confederate that ' a great mistake is made if it is supposed

> The materials for a game dinner for a Phila delphian at Caraceas were putup at Philadelphia

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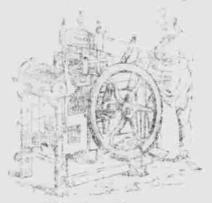
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of Decamber and 19th of May next at one o clock in the altermson, on each of said days.

cheon, on each of said days.

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